

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



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March 18, 2004

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Division of Law Enforcement (Division) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has concerns regarding increased interference experienced in the 800 MHz band of the radio spectrum. This band is utilized by a variety of entities that encompass public safety agencies to commercial wireless communications systems. The Florida communication system presently used to support all of state law enforcement has suffered interference as noted in the comments filed to the board on May 6, 2002, by the State of Florida's State Technology Office.

Interference with public safety communications systems is on the rise throughout the country as commercial wireless systems grow. The added channel traffic and proliferation of cell sites in the 800 MHz band greatly increases the potential for interference with public-safety communications. Interruption of mission-critical communications due to interference jeopardizes the safety of public safety personnel and the citizens and visitors of the state.

The Division supports the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" as a solution to resolve the current situation regarding communications interference, while simultaneously providing much-needed additional spectrum to the public-safety community.

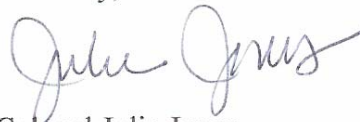
We appreciate your interest in addressing this problem and request that you and your fellow commissioners act expeditiously to realign the 800 MHz spectrum per the "Consensus Plan" with the best interests of the public-safety community in mind. We urge the Commission to culminate the proceedings so that any financial impact to public-safety agencies is minimized, if not avoided altogether.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can provide additional information regarding this issue, please contact us at (850) 922-8063.

Mr. Michael K. Powell
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Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can provide additional information regarding this issue, please contact us at (850) 922-8063.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julie Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Jones" clearly distinguishable.

Colonel Julie Jones
Director, Division of Law Enforcement

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